

King's Children.

THE MESSAGE WE BRING.

[Read at Christmas service, at Lanark, Ill., by EMMA PUTERBAUGH.]

The message that came from heaven to Zacharias was, "Many of the children of Israel shall John turn to the Lord." To each one of us a message is given, a message from God. Christ said, "Go work in my vineyard to-day," and he also said, "Go teach all nations." All down the ages this message has been repeated. Though nineteen centuries have passed away since Christ gave his message, yet we have left us his word which is full of messages from his divine lips. Messages which if obeyed will lead us from this world of sin and sorrow to the precious haven of rest above. Yet by many how the message is unheeded.

But what is the message the King's Children brings. What message did we carry during the years we have worshiped in this house. Here in this temple, built for the glory of God was our first K. C. meeting. Here we organized our young people into a band united to work in God's vineyard. In this house only have we held our services, where we have met to study God's word, and pray for God's spirit to guide us and his blessing on the work we do "in his name." During these years of service what of the messages we have carried to others. Did we give the cup of cold water, were we always faithful in telling of a Saviour's love, were we watching for opportunities of saying a helping word? No one is so insignificant, but to some he carries a message. Have the messages the K. C. carried been such that many were made to turn to the Lord?

It is with feeling of mingled sorrow and joy that as the K. C., we meet to-night for the last time in this home. A home which we have known long and loved so well. Our hearts are made sad when taking a retrospect of the past years, we realize how great the message that God gave to us, and we so unfitted and unworthy to be a messenger of God.

And again, in looking back over the past years, we think of some who worshiped here with us, whose faces always greeted us with smiles, whose lips always spoke encouraging words which we miss so much. Never will they meet with us in the new house which we are about to occupy. They have gone to another, better world than this. It makes us sad when we think that the neglected opportunities for doing good are gone forever. As we meet to-night we look back and ask ourselves the question, have any gone

farther into darkness because of the message that I failed in giving?

But we turn from the dark side and look with gladness on the bright side. As we now look back to-night, we think of the many who have given their hearts to God and their lives to his service. We think of many who at the first were only K. C. in name, but who now have, we believe their names written in heaven, and are carrying to others the message which gave them the peace that God alone can give. Should we not rejoice to see young people working in God's cause?

As we go from this house to the one which in future will be our home, may we be earnest in carrying the blessed message.

"It isn't the thing you do dear,
It's the thing you leave undone
That gives you a bit of heartache
At the setting of the sun."

When our sun sets may we have been God's faithful messenger and be carried by the angels into heaven.

CONSECRATION MEETING.

[A paper read at a Thanksgiving service, Milledgeville, Ill., by S. A. Smith.]

When the appointment was made that on this glad Thanksgiving day, the King's Children should meet and hold a consecration meeting, I said unto my heart, "Let us be glad." There seems an appropriateness as we look back over our past, as we are wont to do on the present holiday, that the K. C. should look back over the past of the society, and voice the thankfulness that must come, as we realize the blessings that have been our lot, and see the future blessings that are in sight, and as we know that God is good and changes not, so we may look forward to the future with confident expectations, so long as we remain in proper relation to God, and that we may so remain in those relations, is the object of our meeting. And the assuming of these relations we call consecration, and this is our topic. Consecration is dedication; the setting apart to sacred uses, and implies a complete submission to God's will and when applied to ourselves, we understand that God and the good of his cause must be the single motive of our lives. That wherever we may be the conflict between right and wrong, good and evil, is around us and we are to be on the better side, and that at all times and in all places as we meet the crisis and the decision between God and Satan is demanded, we are to unfalteringly be found where our vows and confessions demand us to be. Away forever, with the idea that we can live with the world and in fellowship with it

as we please, then go to church and by loud professions and many words, justify ourselves with God and claim consecration or sanctification and then be at liberty to take up our life with the world again. That is in full accord with the Romish idea, and is the curse of too many churches, and too many persons to-day.

No, consecration, the genuine thing, is as permanent as God's love. We have no more right to set anything apart to sacred uses and then employ them profanely, than we have to take that which has been set apart for our neighbors uses and employ them for our own use. This latter we call stealing and the former should have as harsh a name. God's ownership of our lives, and best efforts is as complete when they are consecrated to him as is our neighbor's ownership of the goods we would use. Aye, even more so. Then let us to-night, on this glad Thanksgiving time and with past blessings and future possibilities before us, and recognizing the goodness of God, set ourselves, our lives and our best effort, apart to the service of God, and make his cause the supreme concern of our lives, and whatsoever we do, whether for ourselves or for others, let us do it as we know God will approve, and with Paul, ever, "Forgetting those things which are behind and reaching forth unto those things which are before." Leave the rest with the Author and Finisher of our faith, who has given us all our past blessings.

Milledgeville, Ill., Nov. 28, '95.

MISTAKES.

It has been said that the only people who never make mistakes are in the graveyard. Next to the desirability of making no mistakes is that of getting the most good from our mistakes. Horace Greely once said: "I have made plenty of mistakes in my life, but they were always new mistakes." It is not only the part of wisdom to avoid making the same mistake twice, but to also study the disposition and tendencies that lead to mistakes, and seek to make correction there. It is bad enough to have the pipes foul for our water supply, but it is even worse to have the fountainhead unclean. Only One has ever lived of whom it could be said, "He hath done all things well." Mark 7: 37. He can, not only help us to rectify the mistakes we have already made, but he is able to so change the heart and control the life as to spare us from errors which have greatly marred our peace and blessing in the past. "He that walketh uprightly walketh surely." Prov. 10: 9.—
W. F. S.